

To: Environmental Committee

SUPPORT: SB1149 AN ACT CONCERNING ALL RESTRICTIONS FOR SUNDAY HUNTING ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY

SUPPORT: SB 1148 AN ASCT AUTHORIZING CERTAIN KILLING AND HUNTING OF BLACK BEAR AND PROHIBITING BIRD FEEDERS AND OTHER UNINTENTIONAL AND INTENTIONAL FEEDING OF POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS ANIMALS

Hunting is how my fiancé and I consume the majority of our meat. I am strongly opposed to the practices of industrial slaughter houses and do my best to avoid consuming meat from there. The animals have an unfortunate short life and the conditions for food processing is what most would consider "less than sanitary." My goal with meat consumption is to have the only meat my family and I consume be from, 1. Wild Game, 2. Meat I pasture raise myself, or 3. Locally Pasture raised.

I hear people decrying the act of hunting, but the reality is, it is the most ethical way for an animal to live a long and natural life and then consumed as meat. Hunting has benefits not only for meat, but ecology as well. A lot of research goes into bag limits and tag numbers for different species based on the herd strength and size of a herd, as well as their natural habitat. Hunters as conservationists, not just sportsman, bring a good balance to the environment, which is beneficial to everyone. Plus the money collected from hunting fees helps fund ecological projects and maintenance of our State land. Sunday hunting would be a godsend because often Saturday is a time many have to work or have other errands to run. Also sometimes weather is not ideal, and with limited time as it is with mine and my family's work schedule, having an option for *either* Saturday or Sunday would be very helpful with getting meat in the freezer. **Giving the option of Sunday hunting gives more working families flexibility in planning their hectic schedule.**

Bears have become far too overpopulated in this state. Over and over we keep hearing about these interactions with children or the elderly and an overly aggressive bear. Just because you read on a google search that black bears eat a lot of berries, doesn't mean that black bears are not dangerous.

A coworker of mine lives in Litchfield county and shows me videos often of entire herds of bears passing through his back yard. There was a story recently in Morris, CT (Litchfield County) where a young boy was mauled by a black bear.

I am 36 years old and a lifetime resident of CT. I had never heard of bear interactions and attacks as a kid. It seems everyday more and more people are going outside when they hear their trash cans knocked over expecting to find a racoon but rather finding a 500LB sow.

Opening a bear hunt specifically in Litchfield county of 50 tags I feel is a good start. I also applaud the authorizing of crop damage tags for bear as well. It is unconscionable to me that is not a thing in Connecticut. Opening a black bear hunt is following suit to the common sense conservation standards of our neighboring states as well such as New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire. A lot of opposition I have heard are from people near shoreline towns. My mother lives near the water in Branford. She too, has never seen a bear at the beach. But that does not mean it is not needed elsewhere. **Bear attacks and uncomfortable interactions will only increase if the committee fails to act. If this bill does not leave committee, the members risk being at fault should another young boy or girl be mauled by a bear in Connecticut.**